

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4 - 7 are in the application.

As a result of the following amendment, the subject matter of claim 3 has been included in claim 1.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to set forth the invention more clearly.

The fact that the connecting edges 37 extend in the direction toward the outlet socket 9 is clearly illustrated in Fig. 4 as originally filed.

It is submitted that no new issues have been raised as a result of the amendments to claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Schutz, are respectively requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that the configuration of the bottom of the container according to the present invention is clearly not disclosed or suggested by the reference relied on by the Examiner.

The present invention is directed to a transport and storage container for liquids, which includes an inner container of plastic material having an upper bottom with a fill socket, two sidewalls, a front wall having an outlet socket arranged within a lower edge area of the front wall and configured to receive a removal fitting, a back wall, and a lower bottom configured as a drainage bottom having a central, flat drainage channel extending at a downward slant from the back wall to a bottom sump provided within the lower bottom and adjoining the outlet socket. A pallet-shaped underframe comprises a support bottom, configured to receive the lower bottom of the inner container, and comprising corner legs and center legs connected to the support bottom, wherein the underframe is configured to be handled by transport devices. The front wall of the inner container has an inwardly projecting dome-shaped bulge, wherein the outlet socket and the removal fitting are arranged within the bulge.

The features recited in amended claim 1 characterize a geometric configuration of the lower bottom of the liquid container constructed as a discharge bottom and facilitate the configuration of two forward bottom portions having relatively large drainage surfaces in the area of the removal fitting of the container, so that an optimum complete emptying of the container is ensured.

Clearly, the reference to Schutz does not disclose or suggest such a geometric configuration of the lower bottom of the liquid container.

According to the present invention as claimed in claim 1, the liquid container comprises two forward bottom portions arranged on opposed sides of the bulge, wherein the two forward bottom portions ascend from the lower bottom toward the front wall and the corner and side wall areas adjoining the front wall, wherein the two forward bottom portions form drainage surfaces for draining residual liquid from a forward bottom area of the inner container via the bottom sump into the outlet socket when emptying

the transport and storage container for removing residual liquid, and wherein the two forward bottom portions comprise connecting edges between the lower bottom and the drainage surfaces, wherein the connecting edges extend slantedly to the drainage channel and in the direction to the outlet socket.

Accordingly, in view of the distinguishing features of the present invention as claimed in claim 1, it is submitted that claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the art of record.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 24, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 24, 2003.

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Date: October 24, 2003